



September 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Montana School Administrators
FROM: Linda Vrooman Peterson, Administrator
SUBJECT: Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements

The purpose of this letter is to provide information about the federal highly qualified teacher (HQT) requirements for new-to-the-profession and experienced elementary and secondary teachers teaching core academic subject classes, and what these requirements mean to a school administrator.

To meet the federal HQT requirements, every teacher must be licensed, endorsed and appropriately assigned and must have demonstrated content knowledge prior to teaching core academic subject classes. The **core academic subjects**, as defined by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, include: English, reading, mathematics, science (biology, chemistry, earth science, physics, and physical science), civics and government, economics, history, geography, world languages, visual arts, and elementary curriculum. Teachers with endorsements in other subject areas (e.g., music, library media, health enhancement, technology education, and family and consumer sciences) are not required to pass a subject area test to teach non-core academic subject classes. Every teacher teaching in Montana accredited schools must be licensed and subject area endorsed.

The ESEA HQT requirements apply to all teachers assigned to teach core academic subject classes.

- K-8 Elementary teachers new-to-the profession must pass the *PRAXIS II* (0014) Elementary Content Knowledge Test prior to being assigned to teach the elementary curriculum. (Teacher candidates recommended for licensure from a Montana accredited educator preparation program will have completed this requirement.)
- K-8 Elementary teachers who hold a Class 5 Alternative License must pass the *PRAXIS II* (0014) Elementary Content Knowledge test prior to teaching the elementary curriculum.
- Elementary and secondary teachers with a minor in a core academic subject must pass the applicable *PRAXIS II* subject knowledge test prior to teaching a core academic subject class.
- Experienced K-8 Elementary and secondary teachers, K-12 special education teachers, and Title I teachers teaching core academic subject classes must meet High Objective Uniform State Standards of Evaluation (HOUSSE) requirements or pass the appropriate *PRAXIS II* subject area test prior to teaching a core academic subject class.
- Experienced K-8 elementary and secondary teachers, K-12 special education teachers, and Title I teachers teaching core academic subject classes must meet HOUSSE requirements or pass the appropriate *PRAXIS II* subject area test prior to teaching a core academic subject class.
- Teachers with a secondary major, course work equivalent to a major, or an advanced degree in a core academic subject meet the federal HQT requirements and are not required, for HQT purposes, to pass a subject area test.

PRAXIS II test registration information is located on the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Web site:
<http://www.ets.org/praxis/register>.

To access HQT Frequently Asked Questions, Montana PRAXIS II Passing Scores and other HQT information, refer to the Highly Qualified Teacher link on the Office of Public Instruction Web site:
http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/Federal/index.html?gpm=1_5#gpm1_6.

For more information, contact me by telephone, (406) 444-5726, or by e-mail, lvpeterson@mt.gov.